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*Extension Service*, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

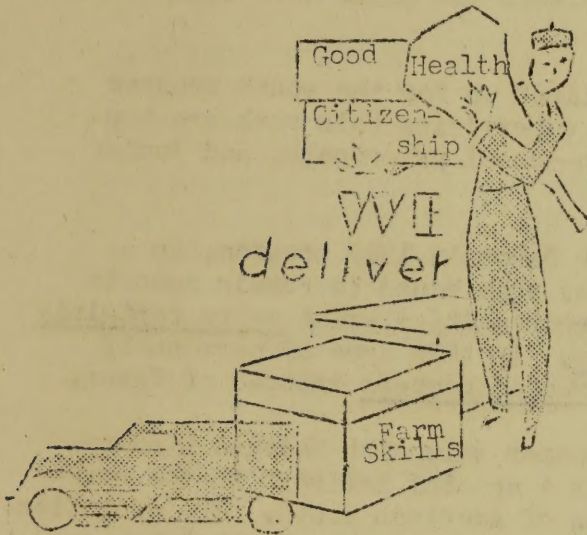


OCT 23 1947  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS

March 19, 1947

For your information

TO ALL ASSISTANT STATE FARM LABOR SUPERVISORS, VFW:



As we've told you before, the Oregon State Office prepares both sketches and written material as a service to county offices that want to issue county news letters to boy and girl platoon workers. We liked this little sketch which appeared on Oregon's most recent suggested "Platoon Leaders Newsette"—and traced it here for you to see.

This is the sort of drawing, then, which gets directly into the hands of school students who are prospective summer farm workers in Oregon. Or at least we presume that county farm labor assistants take good advantage of this

assistance from the Corvallis office.

#### ABOUT GREMLINS IN PUBLICATIONS

folks. You'll be interested in the publications due off the press this spring. As usual we're aiming for earlier publication dates—and barring unforeseen gremlins in the works—the posters and the leaflets for farmers and for youth will be in your hands sooner than ever before. You're bound to have the two leaflets, "Youth Can Help" and "Want a Farm Job?" before April 1. The same goes for the "Our School" poster. The general recruiting poster is due off the press here April 1.

A few specially efficient gremlins, armed with monkey wrenches, have been at work on our pictorial publication, "Farm Work for City Youth." Its broader scope, its educational implications, its 28-pages and its many pictures have made it subject to more approving agencies and officers than we ever knew existed. But you'll be glad to know it comes off the press with the backing of the Budget Bureau and the Public Health Service as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With good fortune, you should get "Farm Work for City Youth" by April 21.

#### ABOUT INSURANCE

The business of getting ready for this year's youth program involves a few items of special concern to you

You've probably also been wondering about the VFW insurance policy this year. We have been informed that all the companies that carried the



the VFV accident policy last year have agreed to write the policy again--  
with the exception of two. You'll want to scratch off the names of these  
two companies from the list on the back of last year's application form.  
They are American Casualty Company of Reading, Pa., and Country Life Insur-  
ance Company of Chicago, Ill.

AND NOW THEY ARE SEVEN

Zach Wipf is elated about the youth  
program being lined up in South Dakota  
for 1947. And it sounds good to us

in the days when special county youth supervisors are doing more disappearing  
from the scene than anything else.

Wipf says "we now have seven of our cities lined up for the youth program  
for 1947. The seven boys we have hired for supervising this work are top-  
notchers--Smith-Hughes teachers, junior high-school principals, and junior  
high-school teachers."

It all sounds like good beginnings for South Dakota's 1947 program, in a  
State where excellent farm work opportunities seem bound to remain open to  
enterprising urban youth. And where such opportunities exist we're certainly  
in favor of special county youth supervisors. In this type of personnel,  
where there's a need, there ought to be increased numbers instead of fewer.

'HARDENING UP YOUTH'

Newspaper columnist Malvina Lindsay  
takes a special interest in the pro-  
blems of American youth. The quotation

below from her column of February 12, entitled "Hardening Up Youth," is  
especially significant for us. We saw the column in The Washington Post.

"The partying, keep-up-with-the-Jones life that has engulfed much of young  
America is showing some faint signs of slackening. A widespread call that  
children be set to doing chores again is heard....Children's emulation of  
the butterfly instead of the ant or bee has been partly responsible for the  
prolonged adolescence of young Americans--which has shown up so unfortun-  
ately among troops abroad and their officers...."

Miss Lindsay completes her column in this vein:

"Many city families are migrating to rural communities, from which they can  
commute, in order to get their children away from the complex social life of  
the city, to give them a chance at outdoor life and chores, to keep them  
occupied, and to harden them up. They feel that less partying and babying and  
a modified looking back to the ways of Abe Lincoln will help prepare children  
to hold their own in the modern equivalent of pioneer perils."

PUTTING IT BRIEFLY

The figures are in now for all the  
1946 VFV placements. They total  
897,040--which is 78 percent of the

1,150,856 placements in 1945....The midwinter issue of The Vermont Victory  
Farm Volunteer is off the press; and a copy will be coming your way soon.  
You'll like this issue and enjoy the stories from youth themselves....Reports  
from Marion County, Oregon, say there is increased interest in farmers want-  
ing platoons. Farmers say they want workers they can depend upon.



County farm bureaus in Idaho are making local studies of the use of youth in agriculture, discussing the problem with local school and extension people. Royale Pierson writes that they will bring the results of these investigations to a State farm-bureau meeting in the near future, where a plan will be adopted....They believe in planning things early in Washington State. Farm labor people and growers' committees met in various planning meetings throughout the State late in February....We were glad to get some very good pictures of the South Dakota youth program from Zach Wipf recently. Add reminder: We can always make use of good youth pictures....W.O. Stark has already visited 60 vocational agriculture schools in Kansas this spring regarding repair of farm machinery and building of labor-saving equipment.

#### WHAT ABOUT BONUSES?

operation.

Every once in a while we hear about the tempting bonuses farmers offer the best pickers during a harvesting

It occurs to me that these would be fairly good incentives except that they must encourage only the "top-bracket" pickers. Youngsters who have rather low picking records probably don't aim for a bonus they haven't got a chance to get. But it's these poor pickers whose production needs an incentive. Why not bonuses for individual improvement over previous production records? I'm not sure how practical the idea would be--but I'd like to know what you think.

#### CORNHUSKER RECOGNITION

One week early in February, L. F. Snipes, Nebraska farm labor supervisor, and J.R. Srb, VFV supervisor in the Cornhusker State, took a trip. They managed to visit five of the schools where Srb recruited great numbers of boy and girl corn detassellers in the spring. They talked to about 407 students and issued about 100 "Certificates of National Service." Nebraska uses 70 hours of work as the basis for recognition.

#### FOUND IN AN ANNUAL REPORT

and farmers. I ran across it in the Nebraska annual report:

Speaking of Nebraska, I am reminded of an excellent little selection chart used there in matching youth workers

| <u>Employee</u> | <u>Points</u>       | <u>Employer</u>   |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| As worker       | 1. Reputation       | As employer       |
| Of worker       | 2. Dependability    | Of employer       |
| To learn        | 3. Willingness      | To teach          |
| With details    | 4. Patience         | With inexperience |
| To employer     | 5. Fairness         | To employee       |
| Standards       | 6. Home environment | Standards         |
| Of people       | 7. Likings          | Of youth          |

#### LOOKING AHEAD FOR YOUTH

annual reports, I quote a few of them:

Some significant statements from State and VFV supervisors caught my eye in reading the youth sections in your 1946

"Schools should give recognition to youth for a vacation well spent."--South Dakota.



"Recent survey of counties where youth were employed as live-in workers in 1946 indicates a continued need for this type of labor in 1947."--Pennsylvania.

"It is just as likely that some town youth may become a successful farmer as it is that a farm boy will become a successful urban businessman and leader."--Mississippi.

"I see no place for urban youth in Alabama agriculture in 1947."--Alabama.

"Due to the splendid job done by youth during the war years, it is expected employers of farm labor will always have a warm place in their hearts for ambitious youth, who desire to work on the farm. The employers will, no doubt, grant concessions to youth, which prior to the war would have been out of the question."--Oklahoma.

"School age boys and girls will continue to be one of the best and most certain sources of seasonal labor to harvest increasing acreage of special crops."--Illinois.

#### IT'S A PROBLEM IN CANADA TOO

Alex Maclaren, director of the Ontario Farm Service Force up Canada way, recently sent me a fine and complete story of Canada's wartime youth camp, day-haul, and live-in program. The material supplements the Canadian report I mentioned in the last news letter. If there's room in another news letter, I hope to tell you more about the Canadian set-up, but you'll be interested in this comment of Maclaren's in the letter:

"We are just now in the throes of discussing how to continue these camps and transfer some of the financial responsibility to the shoulders of the farmers who benefit from the help provided."

#### SPARKS FROM A TERM PAPER

Remember those term papers most of us had to do before winding up a college course? Janet Hotchkiss recently got such an assignment for an education course at the University of Connecticut and chose for her subject, "Farm Work Camps for Boys and Girls." P. L. Putnam liked the job she did in discussing Connecticut's tobacco camps and sent us a copy of her paper. Miss Hotchkiss covers her subject thoroughly and she comes to this conclusion:

"In these days when newspapers and magazines carry so many articles stressing reforms in the schools, the farm work camp program should be easily incorporated into the school systems. It fits right into the reform plans. It is of practical value. It is learning through experience. It is interesting and appealing to young people."

What changes are there going to be in your 1947 youth programs? We should like to know about developments in your spring planning.

Sincerely,

*Irvin H. Schmitt*  
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Extension Farm Labor Program

(Copy: State supervisor,  
directors, editors)  
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